

ment of the Preobrazhenski Guards from St. Petersburg arrived to-day to watch the remains.

There was an assembly of the nobility also at a requiem service to-day, which was attended by members of the Stock Exchange and leading residents.

At an extraordinary session of the municipality a resolution was adopted begging M. Bouguine, Minister of the Interior, to convey its condolences on the death of the Grand Duke to the Czar. The resolution also prayed God to give repose to the soul of Sergius. It expressed profound sympathy with the Grand Duchess Elizabeth and hoped God would give her strength to bear the terrible blow and preserve her to continue the good work which she is doing.

CZAR AND CZARINA IN TERROR.

PARIS, Feb. 18.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Echo de Paris* says he has trustworthy information from the Imperial Palace at Tsarskoe-Selo that when the assassination of Sergius became known there last evening there was a terrible sensation, and that when the Czar had regained his usual calmness he announced his intention to grant the promised reforms and to convene a zemski sobor or popular assembly. He told Prince Chirinsky Thirlapoff that he would do this because he desired to know exactly what public opinion was.

The *Echo's* correspondent adds that the Czar was in the act of reading a letter from the Grand Duke Sergius advocating the calling of an assembly representing all estates when he received the news.

A St. Petersburg despatch to the *Petit Journal* says that the Czar and Czarina became a prey to terror on hearing of the assassination. The Czarina wished to send their children to Denmark immediately. This plan was vetoed because of the loss of Imperial prestige it would inevitably involve.

REVOLUTIONARY CIRCULARS ISSUED.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—A Moscow despatch to the Central News says that the thrower of the bomb which killed Sergius has confessed that he is a member of the Workers' Social Democratic party, and that in killing the Grand Duke he carried out the will of the executive officers of the party.

A despatch to the same agency from Odessa says that leaflets were circulated there this morning, signed by the South Russian section of the Social Democratic Revolutionary party. They announce the assassination of the Grand Duke Sergius, adding: "This event marks the beginning of a war of reprisals, forced upon the people by the unbending stubbornness and the intolerable oppressive rule of the present regime."

A news agency despatch from St. Petersburg says that the feeling of alarm caused yesterday by the assassination of Sergius was intensified to-day by the act of the Revolutionary party in scattering throughout the city violently worded proclamations, calling upon all persons, especially workmen, to rise against their oppressors.

The Princess Victoria, wife of Rear Admiral Prince Louis of Battenberg and sister of the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, widow of the Grand Duke Sergius, left for Moscow to-night.

STUDENTS CHEER OVER SERGIUS'S DEATH.

ODDESSA, Feb. 18.—The police this afternoon had the greatest difficulty in suppressing demonstrations by students who were applauding the assassination of Grand Duke Sergius. Several hundred students assembled in the university quadrangle and cheered the deed. They were finally dispersed by the police.

STRIKERS MORE DETERMINED.
Death of Sergius Has Its Effect on the Labor Situation.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 18.—The death of Grand Duke Sergius will have the effect of making the attitude of the populace and workmen more determined. The workmen are renewing their demands that real delegates from their organizations be allowed to see the Emperor and have an opportunity to explain their grievances.

The first workmen elected by secret ballot at the Nevski shipyard for membership in M. Shidlovsky's commission were all prominent in the recent movement. No foreman was chosen as a member of the committee.

The workmen have drafted questions which they will submit to the Government before they will participate in the work of the commission. They ask if the political equality with the economical status of the workmen will be included in the work of the commission, and how far the recommendations of the commission will be operative. They want this information in order that the workmen may await definite results and not phantom schemes and thus avoid unnecessary disillusion.

They ask that the debates be reported and discussed by the press.

Strikes are reported to-day on various railroads. The directors of the Moscow, Rybinsk and Windau line announce that they have no control over the system and that traffic will be suspended.

A big strike took place to-day at the Sormovo Works. Twenty thousand men ceased work.

Prince Frederick Leopold of Prussia, who came to this city with the intention of proceeding to the Far East by way of the Siberian Railroad and joining Gen. Kuropatkin's army as German military attaché, started for Berlin last evening. From there he will go to Genoa and proceed to the Orient by sea. The reason given him why he could not go overland was that the railroad was blocked by military traffic.

GRAND DUKE PAUL FORGIVEN.
Banished Brother of Sergius Will Be Allowed to Return.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Feb. 18.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Petit Journal* says that the Grand Duke Paul has been forgiven and will be allowed to return to Russia. He is to be restored to his former post of aide-de-camp to the Czar.

The Grand Duke Paul was dismissed from the Russian Army and from the German Army, in which he held honorary rank, in 1902 for marrying the Baroness Pettkoff, who had obtained a divorce in order to marry him. He was also banished from the Russian Court for a term of ten years. Since then his residence has been at Cannes in the south of France.

POWERS TO ADVISE THE CZAR.

EXCHANGING VIEWS ON RUSSIA'S CRITICAL STATE.

Hopeless Confusion in the Government—Executioners of Grand Duke Sergius Now Threaten the Dowager Empress—Thus Bring More Pressure on the Czar

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—Even expert observers of Russian affairs are completely at a loss what to expect as the next development in the national melodrama. One man's guess is indeed as good as another's.

THE SUN'S St. Petersburg correspondent in a private telegram to-day laconically describes the situation in the highest quarters as hopeless confusion and demoralization. This, in fact, was true of the condition before yesterday's tragedy added personal terror to the absence of all cohesion and definite purpose.

It was the knowledge of this perilous feature which caused grave uneasiness for the past few days in all the European chancelleries. The impression was strongly held in diplomatic circles that an emergency might soon demand some action in the shape of friendly representation to the Czar of a nature which should open his eyes to the necessity of the adoption of a clearly defined national policy for dealing with the whole situation.

Yesterday's event makes some such action almost imperative. Europe cannot look on with indifference when the Russian Empire stands in imminent danger of being plunged into anarchy.

At the same time the delicacy and difficulty of the task make it almost insuperable. No Government can officially advise the Emperor to stop the war, much less to point out how to put his own house in order. Interference could come only in unofficial form from the friendly heads of States in whom the Czar has confidence.

There is reason to believe that the Kaiser has already placed before Emperor Nicholas the public version of recent events in Russia which are matters of common knowledge to the rest of the world, but which, there is some reason to suspect, have not reached the imperial ears. It is true, also, that there has been a rapid unofficial exchange of views for the past week between representatives of the great Powers regarding all the features of the Russian crisis.

It cannot be said that this international discussion includes any definite peace suggestion. The situation is of graver menace than the question of peace or war in the Far East. It involves above all the fate of the Romanoff dynasty and the preservation of the unity of the Russian Empire.

European diplomacy, in fact, is seriously considering the problem of what shall be done if the Russian Government is overthrown and a state of virtual anarchy presents itself.

Nowhere is this possibility so anxiously regarded as in Paris. The danger to the Franco-Russian alliance and the fear of German intrigues in such a situation are considered to constitute the gravest danger of the most serious international crisis of recent history.

French opinion in regard to Russia's domestic condition is probably the most reliable of that of any of the foreign Powers, and its nature for the past few days has been such as to cause the gloomiest apprehension. It is to the effect that the Government is now without a head. There is no cooperation between the departments or the ministers or between the civil and military authorities. There is nothing, for instance, except the fear of assassination to prevent Governor General Trepoff from making himself dictator of the empire at an hour's notice.

The question of peace or war is entirely lost sight of for the time being in speculation over what will become of the internal administration and the autocracy. It is this problem undoubtedly which absorbs the mind of the Czar, but unhappily nobody pretends to look to him for any solution. The European diplomatic world simply ventures the hope that liberality counsel may win the Emperor's approval long enough for reform methods to gain a foothold.

After the necessary perfunctory expressions of regret and disapproval, it may be said that official Europe regards the Grand Duke Sergius's death with unanimous satisfaction. Such, also, is the opinion of the public. The press to-day teems with the record of his tyrannies and atrocities. Abdul Hamid's record is scarcely so black as that piled up against this enemy of human liberty and robber of the empire.

It is easy to outline the future programme of his executors. They will make a few days to see if the Emperor makes liberal concessions to the chief popular demand. If he fails them the work of assassination will go on.

Their inflexible purpose is to bend the Czar to their will. To do this they are prepared to go to lengths which will revolt the world at large. They will not stop at taking the lives of such men as the Grand Dukes Vladimir and Alexander, Michaelovich and Governor-General Trepoff.

They announce their intention to strike down a woman whose dominant influence over the Emperor, combined with that of the Grand Duke Sergius, has long kept him on the side of the reactionaries. This is the Dowager Empress, whose uncompromising sympathy with autocratic principles was the chief power behind the throne during the early years of her son's reign. Her ideas and influence are well known to the Russian people, but she is by no means such an object of popular hatred as Grand Duke Sergius and others of his black crew were.

Should the vengeance of the revolutionists fall on her they will forfeit sympathy, if not at home, in other countries, which condone if they do not fully approve the present programme. Perhaps the threat against her was intended only to put additional pressure upon the weak autocrat who possesses no wisdom of statecraft and whose primitive instincts of self-preservation are now being appealed to.

Two things the Czar must do immediately if he would check the programme of the use of dynamite against Russia. He must remove forthwith the Grand Duke Sergius's two creatures, who are now endowed with despotic power—Governor General Trepoff and M. Bouguine, the Minister of the Interior.

But there is no use in discussing what this ruler who does not rule will do. The irreducible minimum of demands of the Russian people is daily becoming higher. The time approaches, some believe it is now at hand, when Russia will be satisfied with nothing short of driving him from the throne.

AEOLIAN HALL as a PIANO CENTRE

A combination of conditions favorable to piano buyers not paralleled elsewhere in the country

WITHIN the last two years a situation entirely new and novel to the piano industry of the world has been created with Aeolian Hall, New York, as its chief center. Here is to be found an array of pianos—not merely the productions of one manufacturer, but a collection of famous instruments, the manufacture of each of which is controlled by the company that sells it—the Aeolian Company.

Thus is the opportunity presented to make direct, side-by-side comparisons of high-grade pianos, yet without sacrificing any of the advantages or assurance of security which one has in dealing direct with the manufacturers. *The key-note of the piano business is confidence.* In purchasing a piano at Aeolian Hall, the buyer has the satisfaction of knowing that he is dealing direct with the manufacturer who is responsible for the claims or statements of his salesmen, rather than with an agent who may be representing an entirely different line of pianos a month or six months from to-day. The aggregation of interests having Aeolian Hall as their home ranks by far as the largest in the musical industry.

The Principle of Concentration

The principle of concentration, resulting in important economic and expert advantages, which has recently played so notable a part in almost all branches of industry, has penetrated to the piano business. This was the one field in which, it had been argued, this principle could not be introduced. The many years during which the trade in musical instruments had been based on fictitious values and artificial conditions made it impracticable, said these critics, to apply the modern methods of other industries.

It was the Aeolian Company that first introduced the one-price system as applied to musical instruments. This was done before other houses which now claim the credit had even thought of going into the musical business. From the date of its organization, 1886, the Aeolian Company inaugurated this policy and has ever since adhered strictly to it. Piano prices were everywhere based on fictitious values. There was a "list price" which meant nothing and a net selling price which was kept secret. No one knew in buying a piano whether he had really secured the rock bottom price. The Aeolian Company abolished the list price and charged everyone exactly the same, irrespective of whether he was "a close buyer" or not.

The successful application to the piano business of the old axiom that "in union there is strength," is of sufficient interest to hold for a few moments the attention not only of those who are immediately contemplating the purchase of a piano but of the general public as well. The situation which has only just culminated and as seen from an outside standpoint is summarized as follows by the *Musical Courier* of last month.

Excerpt from the "Musical Courier"

"THE AEOLIAN-PIANOLA WEBER-STECK-WHEELOCK-STUYVESANT COMBINATION.

"\$10,000,000 capital, the largest capital of any musical industry on the globe. Larger than the total capital of the whole London piano manufacturing industry, combined with that of Paris and Berlin. Absolutely rigidly industrial in its system. Through specializations controlling the music market of the world. Owners of valuable piano titles.

"This company acquired the Steck plant last month. It can manufacture any number of pianos and supply any demands, and will do so after its thorough organization has become effected. Its aims are boundless; its projects cover the whole globe. Its artistic aspirations are beyond the conception of those who are only casually interested in pianos and music, and its advertising genius opens the door of every dwelling in the world to its intelligence."

The community of interests here outlined has its nucleus in the Aeolian Company. It was this concern that took the leading part in developing the thought that the great art of music, instead of remaining in the hands of the talented few, could be made, and ought to be made, accessible to all. The successful working out of this idea by this company is witnessed to-day in the perfected form of the Pianola, the Metrostyle Pianola, the Pianola Piano, the Aeolian, the Aeolian, the Orchestrelle and the Aeolian Pipe Organ. By means of these instruments, there are throughout the world thousands of persons who, though devoid of previous musical education, are at the present moment producing in their homes the world's masterpieces of music; not only producing them in a manner satisfactory to themselves but so as to evoke the heartiest approval and enthusiasm on the part of the great musicians and musical authorities everywhere.

The piano is the most popular form of musical instrument.

From the very nature of the Aeolian Company's products, it was brought face to face with the piano situation. No matter to what degree of perfection the Pianola should be brought, its results would be minimized if attached to an inferior or unworthy piano. Moreover, from the very moment of the Pianola's great success, there was always before the manufacturers the idea of uniting Pianola and piano in a single instrument.

For this and other reasons it was found desirable to form an alliance with some one of the great houses engaged in manufacturing pianos. The Aeolian Company from its position as the maker of the Pianola—the standard piano-player of the world, the one which enjoyed a larger popularity and sale than all others put together—was in a position to pick and choose its proposed associate in the piano field.

KAISER'S SYMPATHY.

Makes Personal Visit to Russian Embassy to Express It.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

BERLIN, Feb. 18.—An hour after the receipt of the news of the assassination of the Grand Duke Sergius, the Kaiser drove to the Russian Embassy and expressed to the Russian Ambassador his horror at the deed and his personal sympathy with the Czar. He asked the Ambassador to convey to the Czar a message to that effect.

As a mark of sympathy and respect, the Kaiser did not attend the banquet of the upper house of the Prussian Diet which was held last night.

The Kaiser has ordered the court to go into mourning for eight days in respect to the memory of the Grand Duke Sergius. The Grand Duke of Hesse, a brother of the widow of the murdered man, has ordered the Hesse court to go into a month's mourning.

JAP FORCE WIPED OUT.

Russian Report of a Victory in a Cavalry Fight.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 18.—Gen. Sakharoff, Gen. Kuropatkin's chief of staff, reports that a detachment of Russian cavalry, while reconnoitering, encountered and annihilated a Japanese squadron, losing in the affair one officer and three men killed and twenty-four men wounded.

A most thorough investigation of the foremost pianos of Europe and America was therefore inaugurated—an investigation which went much deeper into piano problems and intrinsic merits than the ordinary outsider who considered himself a judge of piano values could hope to go. The result was that the Weber piano was the one finally selected by the Aeolian Company's board of experts. A little over a year ago the announcement was made that the Aeolian Company and the Weber Piano Company had united their interests, forming a single corporation. Other companies in the musical industry were also added.

Absorption of George Steck & Co.

Last month the further announcement was made that this combination had been strengthened by the merging with it of the business of George Steck & Co., for nearly half a century makers of the successful and highly artistic Steck piano, an instrument which has had a sturdy following among musicians, notwithstanding the conservative methods of exploitation followed by its manufacturers.

The various makes of pianos now made by the united corporation, named in the order of the prices at which they are sold, are:

The Weber Piano

The Steck Piano

The Wheelock Piano

The Stuyvesant Piano

Each of these pianos has its own factory in New York City. In addition, the Aeolian Company owns three other factories, one each in Worcester, Mass.; Meriden, Conn.; and Aeolian, N. J.

The facts so far recited are worth pondering by all music-lovers—by those who are now contemplating the purchase of a piano and by anyone who may ever want to select a piano with intelligence. As a result of these various combinations of interests such a force of musical and mechanical experts has been brought together as has been heretofore unknown and would be impossible under less imposing auspices.

Significance to the Public

The significance to the piano-purchasing public is apparent and profound. It means that whatever science and inventive genius can suggest in the advancement of present standards and the betterment of existing methods will be found in the products of this house. *The purchase of an article from this source will carry with it the guarantee that it embodies the last word in the development of an instrument of its type.*

The well-known progressiveness of the Aeolian Company is sufficient assurance that the immense facilities now at its command will be utilized to the best possible advantage. To-day there are different draughtsmen in different factories working on the same problems, each unaware of what the other is doing. The results are compared and by the process of elimination the best only retained.

Every instrument sold by the Aeolian Company is advertised and catalogued at its selling price and the instruments are so ticketed as they stand on the wareroom floors at Aeolian Hall.

The Exchange Department for the Sale of Slightly Used Pianos and Pianolas

The Aeolian Company's "Exchange Department" is a most important feature of the piano business conducted at Aeolian Hall. The pianos offered here have been taken in part payment for the Pianola Piano, and represent practically every well known manufacturer. They are remarkable for their exceptionally fine condition, due to the fact that their owners did not part with them because unsatisfactory, but because they preferred to own the Pianola Piano, an instrument which anyone can play. The introduction of this new type of piano has therefore been the occasion of bringing into the market a large number of high-grade instruments, many of which have been in use only a very short time.

To the piano purchaser who seeks the greatest possible value for the money invested this recently established Exchange Department offers two substantial advantages: (1) a chance to secure a piano of almost any desired make, in exceptionally good condition, at prices averaging half original cost; and (2) the opportunity of examining side by side all, or nearly all, the leading makes of pianos, enabling one to make an intelligent selection from a variety of instruments, representing different types and standards, but without the annoyance and confusion of mind which result from visiting a number of different warerooms. Customers have frequently declared that if they had not been informed that these were used pianos they would have supposed the department was a miscellaneous collection of entirely new instruments. *Nowhere else does a similar opportunity exist, for nowhere else is the same inducement for people to exchange pianos so worthy in every particular.*

To sum up, the authority previously quoted is again cited:

"The Aeolian Company controls a system of manufacture *in genere*. It manufactures the whole and complete paraphernalia of the Pianola principle of piano playing. It manufactures the Pianola portable instrument. It manufactures the piano with the Pianola fixed in it stationary as part of the Piano. It manufactures the mechanisms which combined make the Pianola Piano. It manufactures the Vocalion and Aeolian organs. It manufactures the rolls from which these instruments are played. It manufactures pipe organs made to be played in the usual manner or with the self-playing attachment. It manufactures the Weber pianos. It manufactures the Steck pianos. It manufactures the Wheelock pianos. It manufactures the Stuyvesant pianos.

"First, through its universally organized advertising plan, or, let me say, principle, it controls much of the tendency of musical taste through the distribution of its literature. It reaches the public otherwise directly through its system of public entertainment in its own Music Halls in New York, London, Paris, Berlin and Sydney, and directly through its hundreds of agencies which follow the plans of the mother house. Then it is in close association with the musical artists through the power and ability it possesses to reproduce not only their works and popularize them, but also through the reproduction of the interpretations of the living artists and the general dissemination of their individual style."

Pianos as a class are in a transitional state. They have been greatly improved over those of 25 years ago, just as those in turn were vast improvements over the old clavichord for which Bach wrote his fugues. Pianos either go forward or they go backward. There is no such thing as standing still, even with those whose names represented the standard to the previous generation. To stand still is to retrograde. As the piano industry is to-day constituted, what better evidence of progression could be produced than in the great organization here perfected and of which Aeolian Hall is the headquarters?

The AEOLIAN COMPANY, Aeolian Hall

362 Fifth Ave., near 34th St., New York.

RUSSIA IGNORES OUR INQUIRY.

No Answer Yet on the Lena Officers Who Broke Their Parole.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The Russian

Government has not as yet responded to the inquiry of the United States concerning the three officers of the Russian cruiser *Lena* who broke their parole by leaving the Mare Island Navy Yard, where the whole crew has been interned since the *Lena* reached San Francisco last September, and they going back to St. Petersburg, where they offered their services to the Russian Government.

The State Department instructed Ambassador McCormick in St. Petersburg to inform the Russian Foreign Office of the departure of the three officers and of the State Department's information that they had reported for duty to the Russian naval establishment. This was several days ago, and as yet no answer has been received. Count Cassini, the Russian Ambassador, has nothing from his Government concerning the incident and he said yesterday that the situation would be handled by the Russian Consul at San Francisco.

Kogoro Takahira, the Japanese Minister, is deeply interested in the matter and has communicated the facts as known to Tokyo. His report has brought forth no answer from his Government. If Russia shows a disposition to let the negotiations drag, Japan might protest; for it is certain that the Tokyo authorities are not willing that the three officers, bound by their word to stay within certain limits, should re-enter the Russian Navy.

Japan has complained heretofore about Russian officers breaking their parole. The commander of the destroyer *Retschitani*, which sought refuge at Chefoo last August and was attacked there by Japanese cruisers, escaped while being transported by the Chinese authorities from Chefoo to Shanghai. In the Japanese note to the Powers issued several weeks ago in answer to the Russian charges of alleged violations of neutrality this incident and one or two others were cited. At various other times Japan has protested because Russian officers have returned to St. Petersburg and reentered their services after giving their parole.

Dr. Watson Acquitted of Wife Murder.

NEW LONDON, Mo., Feb. 18.—The jury in the case of Dr. Taylor Jones Watson, whose trial on the charge of murdering his wife by means of poison has been in progress since Jan. 23, returned a verdict at 9:50 o'clock this morning acquitting the defendant. The verdict was reached after three hours of deliberation and on the second ballot.